

through the Eastern Partnership program—in helping to build democratic, prosperous, and stable societies throughout Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. Building on that progress is in the national interest of the United States; consequently, we call on the U.S. Department of State to direct needed resources to help support Ukraine's European choice.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF TEXAS HEALTH HARRIS METHODIST HOSPITAL HURST-EULESS-BEDFORD

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the 40th anniversary of Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital Hurst-Euless-Bedford (HEB). The hospital has been dedicated to serving the citizens of Northeast Tarrant County, Texas, where it has been improving the lives of the community with quality health care service.

The vision of an outstanding hospital was formulated through the cooperative leadership from the Cities of Hurst, Euless and Bedford. The cities acknowledged the growing healthcare needs of their citizens and, as a result, the cities formed the HEB Hospital Authority to plan and build the hospital.

Fundraising for the hospital occurred in 1969 and, shortly afterwards in 1970, construction began. The Cities of Hurst, Euless, and Bedford continued to raise funds for the project until the doors opened in June 1973.

Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital HEB is a fully accredited Cycle IV Chest Pain Center designated by the Society of Chest Pain Centers, and it also has a three-year accreditation, with commendation, from the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer. In addition, Texas Health HEB was the first hospital in Northeast Tarrant County to be certified as a Primary Stroke Center. Lastly, the hospital achieved the designation as a Level III Trauma center this year.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th District of Texas, I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital HEB for serving the North Texas community for 40 years with outstanding health care practices.

HONORING SUSAN NUSSBAUM

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, treasured playwright and author, Ms. Susan Nussbaum, on her 60th birthday. Susan has been a groundbreaking voice for persons with disabilities. Through her advocacy with disability groups, Susan has written plays and recently a remarkable book that has helped to change the perception of disabled people throughout Chicago and well beyond.

Susan acquired her disability in 1977 at the age of 24 in a car accident. She refused to

allow her newfound disability to define her after this tragic accident. In the 1970's, Susan became involved in the disability rights movement and helped to win key fights concerning wheelchair-accessible public transportation and the remodeling of sidewalks, schools, stores, and theaters. The strength and character she built through those wins continues to shine today.

Susan worked at Access Living, a wonderful organization in Chicago dedicated to inclusion, independent living and empowerment for people with disabilities. While working at Access Living Susan founded of the Empowered Fe Fes, a peer support and advocacy group of young women with disabilities. Susan knew that first and foremost, a girl with a disability is a girl, with the same feelings, emotions, wants, and desires of any other girl. The group gave young women with disabilities an opportunity to speak freely in a safe and private space and express the challenges and experiences they encounter on a daily basis. The Empowered Fe Fes challenges traditional stereotypes about disability and gender. My wonderful Constituent Advocate Taina Rodriguez, who has been helping residents in my district office for over 12 years, was Susan's assistant in the Empowered Fe Fe's and since she was in high school has had a special mother-daughter relationship with Susan.

Challenging stereotypes has defined much of Susan's work. On stage, Susan has written and directed plays that reframe disability through the lens of someone with an authentic disability experience. Her work has been showcased at Second City, Live Bait, Steppenwolf, and more. She has written such plays as No One As Nasty and Mishuganismo. "No One as Nasty" appears in a collection titled Beyond Victims and Villains: Contemporary Plays by Disabled Playwrights. Susan refuses to write her characters in a certain stereotypical light. Instead, she portrays them in a realistic manner, which has helped to change the stereotype of disabled characters. Susan's work has given voice to a disability experience that transcends the historical portrayal as someone who needs to be pitied, cured or worshipped. Too often, on television, in the movies, in literature, and on stage, people with disabilities are presented as bitter, depressed and pitiable, or as unnaturally heroic and inspirational. Rarely do you see a character with a disability defined as a full participant in our society who just happens to have a disability. I say rarely, because there are people like Susan Nussbaum.

Recently, her achievements as a writer have gone beyond the stage and expanded into literature. Her novel, Good Kings, Bad Kings, earned the 2012 Barbara Kingsolver PEN/Bellwether Prize for Socially Engaged Fiction. The novel follows the lives of young people with disabilities as they tell their stories about abuse, neglect and love while living in a state institution. Barbara Kingsolver presented Susan the award and said, "The characters in Good Kings Bad Kings made me laugh, over and over again, and cry and cheer. This is fiction at its best . . . A stunning accomplishment."

Susan's body of work has transformed the way we think about disability. I encourage everyone, including my colleagues, to read Good Kings Bad Kings.

Among friends she's been called "Disability Culture Queen" and by her family she's known

as "Comrade Auntie Sue," "Mami" and just plain "Sue." Congratulations to Susan Nussbaum on your many amazing accomplishments, and a very happy 60th birthday!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 573 I was unable to be present for the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "no".

IMPORTANCE OF INVESTING IN SAFE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PEDESTRIANS AND BICYCLISTS

HON. ALBIO SIRES

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Mr. SIRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the importance of investing in safe infrastructure for pedestrians and bicyclists. I recently read a report presented by the Sierra Club and League of American Bicyclists, entitled The New Majority: Pedaling towards Equity, and as someone who rides a bicycle regularly, I think there's a lot to be excited about in their findings.

Across the nation, bike ridership is up—and the numbers are impressive. From 2001 to 2009 there has been a 22% increase in bike trips among white Americans, 50% for Hispanics, 80% for Asian Americans, 100% among African Americans, and there's plenty of room for those numbers to grow.

Unfortunately, concerns about access to safe infrastructure remains a barrier for many would-be riders. I believe we must do more in Congress to address that. It's a simple fact that when we invest in complete streets with safe pedestrian and bicycle pathways, we create communities where businesses want to invest and families want to live. That is why I plan to introduce a bill in the coming weeks that will create innovative new ways of financing non-motorized infrastructure projects. I am hopeful that this legislation will attract bipartisan support here in Congress, so that Americans of all age and background can enjoy equitable access to safe roads.

TRIBUTE TO COACH ROBERT L. STRAYHAN

HON. STEVE STOCKMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Mr. STOCKMAN. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Coach Robert L. Strayhan of Baytown's Carver High School touched the hearts of the many Carver and Lewisville High School athletes, students, fellow faculty members, staff members and family and friends who had the privilege of knowing him and who had the chance to be coached or mentored by him; and